

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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R 261200Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7382

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT AR

SUBJ: SITUATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES

1. THE VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (UBA) CONTINUE TO BE OCCUPIED BY LEFTIST STUDENTS IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST ANY CHANGE IN POLICY OR PERSONNEL. THESE OCCUPATIONS ARE MOSTLY FOR SYMBOLIC VALUE, HOWEVER, AS CLASSES AND OTHER UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN A NORMAL MANNER.

2. EDUCATION MINISTER IVANISSEVICH HAS STATED THAT FOR THE MOMENT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN POLICY NOR WILL ANY APPOINTMENTS BE MADE. THE LEFTIST PERONIST NEWSPAPER NOTICIAS MEANWHILE WARNS THAT THE NAMING OF RODOLFO TERCERA DEL FRANCO AS UBA RECTOR IS IMMINENT AND STATES THAT THE STUDENTS WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO TAKE OFFICE.

3. RAUL LAGUZZI, THE LEFTIST PERONIST WHO TAIANA NAMED AS INTERIM RECTOR, IS CONTINUING TO TRY TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE LEFT. HE HAS REPLACED THE DEAN OF THE AGRONOMY SCHOOL, AN ORTHODOX PERONIST, WITH A LEFTIST PERONIST. HE HAS ALSO NAMED TAIANA TO HEAD THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT IN

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THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IVANISSEVICH WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY'S PROBLEMS EVEN IF THERE WERE SUFFICIENT COMMON GROUND FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE STUDENTS. GIVEN THIS, HE (AND THE GOA) HAVE ESSENTIALLY THREE OPTIONS: 1)HE CAN IGNORE THE PROBLEM AS HE HAS DONE IN HIS FIRST FEW DAYS IN THE MINISTRY AND LET THE PRESENT UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO RUN THINGS; 2)HE CAN TRY TO IMPOSE A CHANGE OF POLICIES--THOUGH THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AS DIFFICULT A TASK FOR A MAN OF 79 AS TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION; 3)THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY AND REOPEN SEVERAL MONTHS LATER WITH A NEW GROUP OF DEANS. RADICAL PARTY CONTACTS, INCLUDING ONE HIGH RANKING POLITICIAN, HAVE RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS THAT AT THIS POINT THEY BELIEVE CLOSING THE UNIVERSITY IS ONLY SOLUTION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SURPRISING SINCE THE RADICALS HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF DEFENSE OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY. IN THE SHORT RUN, THE GOA POLICY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE BENIGN NEGLECT BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY DOWN AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

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